

~~TOP SECRET~~

June 13, 1949

Dear Pilgrim:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a Foreign Service Operations Memorandum regarding Albanian publications, as well as two of the publications mentioned therein. Do you wish me to send to you in the future copies of any Albanian material we are able to acquire here.

In this connection we have in the Embassy a Foreign Service Clerk by the name of Anthony Stevens. Stevens is an Albanian-born American citizen who served for many years in our Legation in Tirana. He is a man of about 55 years old, very discreet and modest, who has been most cooperative in obtaining information from Albanian circles in Italy. He speaks the language and is close-mouthed. He is a good chap although I would not consider him highly intelligent. He can be used, however, in obtaining information on Albanian groups and individuals in Italy.

Several days ago Stevens informed me that a Mr. Auberot Herbert, an Englishman, came to Rome and contacted several Albanians here. He warned them that Albania was in danger of being divided up between Yugoslavia and Greece. He said that Albanian elements in Yugoslavia had been brought together under an Albanian by the name of Gani Beg Kryeziu, the brother of Said Kryeziu who is at present in Rome but who generally lives in Palermo. Stevens stated that Gani Kryeziu used to work with the British in Kosova during the German occupation and was arrested by the Yugoslavs after Tito came to power. He was sentenced to 5 years in jail but it has been reported that he has recently been liberated after making some kind of a deal with the Yugoslav Government.

Stevens has also informed me that Radio Tirana has mentioned Kryeziu's name and has accused him of organizing Albanians from the Kosova district against the present government in Tirana. He also said that Radio Tirana had also mentioned other Albanians in the northern part of the country such as Cen Elezi who had fled from Albania into Yugoslavia.

Stevens continued that Herbert had told the Albanians in Rome that he was going to arrange for a committee to come to London but that he did not wish to do so until they had gotten together abroad. He said that Herbert and his family had always been considered by the Albanians as one of their best friends. He added that Koco Muko, an Albanian who had recently come from Cairo, had brought a similar message to the effect that the Albanians abroad should get together.

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With respect to the Albanian vessel which landed recently in Brindisi, Stevens said that the following members of the crew wish to return to Albania:

1. Rexhep Mustafa from Ulqini
2. Qani Hasan " Gjinokastro
3. Tajar Caraci " Konispol
4. Muco Hasani " Peshkopija, Dibra.

The Albanians on the vessel who desire to remain in Italy and who have been transferred to the detention camp at Frosinone are as follows:

1. Theodor Ziu from Durazzo
2. Haxhi Germani " Kavaja
3. Arif Zarovoj " Lushnja
4. Manush Theodori " Durazzo
5. Haxhi Tavoli " "
6. Naci Dhimiter " "
7. Vlash Kotori " Berat.

I would appreciate it if you will let me know if you desire me to transmit this type of material to you.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

Enclosure:

OM of June 7, 1949.

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